

Henry David Thoreau:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Thoreau, Henry David, 1817-1862
Title:	Henry David Thoreau Collection
Dates:	1835-1907, undated
Extent:	1 box (.21 linear feet), 1 oversize folder (osf)
Abstract:	Contains manuscripts and letters by the noted American author, transcendentalist philosopher, poet and naturalist, Henry David Thoreau. Includes several handwritten journal entries.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-4222
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Processed by:	Joan Sibley and Apryl Voskamp, 2013 Note: This finding aid replicates and replaces information previously available only in a card catalog. Please see the explanatory note at the end of this finding aid for information regarding the arrangement of the manuscripts as well as the abbreviations commonly used in descriptions.
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Works:

- Chastity and sensuality, handwritten manuscript, 11 pages on 6 leaves, undated. From the Hanley Collection. **Container** 1.2
- The comparative moral policy of severe and mild forms of punishment, signed handwritten manuscript, 2 pages, September 1835. **Container** 1.1
- The freshet, handwritten manuscript / incomplete, 1 page, after 22 March 1841.
- Imagination is my capital, for I am poor in worldly goods..., handwritten manuscript, 3 pages, undated. From the Hanley Collection.
- Journal entries, handwritten manuscript, 3 pages, 26 August-1 September 1843. From the Hanley Collection.
- Journal entries, handwritten manuscript, 3 pages, 7 and 9 September, 1851.
- Love, handwritten manuscript / fair copy / incomplete, 2 pages on 1 leaf, undated. Removed from Stark 4065. The essay sent to H. G. O. Blake in September 1852. Text printed in Letters to various persons, Boston, 1865.
- Nature could not sustain birds as well as quadrupeds, flying as well as creeping things..., handwritten manuscript with revisions, 2 pages on 1 leaf, undated. From the Hanley Collection.
- Night and moonlight/ In heaven, queen she is..., handwritten manuscript with revisions, 2 pages on 1 leaf, undated. From the Hanley Collection.
- ...present moment - and will never be more divine in the lapse of all the ages..., handwritten manuscript, 1 page, undated. From the Hanley Collection.
- What should we think of a bird which had the gift of song..., handwritten manuscript, 4 pages on 3 leaves, circa 1850-1852.
- Who doubts the influence of the character on the bodily features?..., handwritten manuscript, 1 page, undated. From the Hanley Collection.
- (Whoever) is harmoniously composed delights in harmony..., handwritten manuscript / quotations and notes, 2 pages on 1 leaf, undated. From the Hanley Collection.

Letters:

4 ALS to Blake, H. G. O., 9 August 1850, 18 August 1857, 26 September 1859, 30 October 1859. **Container**
1.3

ALS to Curtis, George W. (Putnam's magazine), circa 1855. On verso: handwritten notes on early French exploration of Canada. From the Hanley Collection.

ALS to Denny, Henry G., undated. Written on printed note promising to contribute funds for the public library of Harvard College. Envelope endorsed 11 February 1859. Previously framed with portrait print of Thoreau and mat; unframed by HRC in 1993. Not described in card catalog; from Harry Hunt Ransom Papers. **Container**
osf 1

ALS to Higginson, Thomas Wentworth Storrow, 3 April 1852. **Container**
1.3

ALS to Thatcher, George A., 16 February 1849. From the De Golyer Collection.

Recipient:

Ossoli, Sarah Margaret Fuller, Marchesa d'. ALS to Thoreau, 18 October 1841.
From the De Golyer Collection.

Container
1.4

Sumner, Charles. ALS to Thoreau, 31 October 1854. From the De Golyer
Collection.

Miscellaneous:

Foley, Patrick Kevin. ALS to Wakeman, 19 February 1907.

Container 1.5

Higginson, Thomas Wentworth Storrow. ALS to Foley, Patrick Kevin, 18 February 1907.

Higginson, Thomas Wentworth Storrow. ALS to Powers, 25 July 1902.

Explanatory Note Concerning Manuscript Collections Cataloged in the Card Catalog

Prior to 1990 when archival cataloging procedures were adopted at the Ransom Center, all manuscript collections were described in a card catalog.

Organization of Collections:

- Manuscripts for each author collection were organized into four categories:
- **Works:** manuscripts by the author, arranged alphabetically by title;
- **Letters:** the author's outgoing correspondence, arranged alphabetically by recipient name;
- **Recipient:** the author's incoming correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter; and
- **Miscellaneous:** all other manuscripts and correspondence, arranged alphabetically by creator.

Materials that did not fit into these categories, such as art, photographs, books, and near-print materials such as newspaper clippings, were dispersed to other Ransom Center collections for cataloging and storage.

Abbreviations Used in Descriptions:

The symbols below were used in combinations. For example **ALS** means autograph letter signed; **Tccms** means typed carbon copy manuscript, etc.

- **A** = autograph (i.e., handwritten)
- **T** = typed
- **S** = signed
- **I** = initialed
- **Ms** = manuscript
- **Mss** = manuscripts
- **L** = letter
- **FL** = form letter
- **N** = note
- **D** = document
- **C** = card
- **PC** = post card
- **cc** = carbon copy
- **p** = page
- **pp** = pages
- **l** = leaf
- **ll** = leaves
- **nd** = no date
- **inc d** = incomplete date